In the Claims:

1.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED)   For use with a limited access multinode cooperative telecommunication network, wherein a respective node comprises a private branch exchange (PBX) platform and each having a separate dialing plan, wherein each node has a copy of the dialing plan only for its node as a (PBX) platform and no other nodes and operative to service multiple telecommunication devices coupled to said respective node through the respective separate dialing plan for a node, each communication device having an extension within a respective dialing plan for a node that is used in the course of routing a call from a calling communication device to a called communication device, a method of routing a call from a calling communication device at a first node to a called device as a queried target corresponding to a requested extension at another node comprising the steps of:

(a)   transmitting a query message from said first node to all other nodes of said network, said query message being operative to determine whether a respective node receiving said query message is coupled to said called device as a queried target;

(b)   at each node, examining the local accounts to determine if the queried target as the requested extension is connected to the respective node;

~~(b)~~ (c)   at a second node to which said called device is coupled, transmitting a reply message to said first node indicating that said second node is coupled to said called device

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~~such that~~ and has the queried target corresponding to the requested extension while all other nodes ~~not having the called device as a queried target coupled thereto~~ ignore the query message and do not transmit a reply message ~~indicative that the respective node not replying does not have the queried target for location or routing~~ indicative the all other nodes do not have the queried target as the requested extension for locating or routing; and

~~(c)~~ (d) in response to receipt of said reply message by said first node, routing said call from said first node to said second node, so that said second node may complete the connection of said call to said called device without requiring a copy of dialing plans for all other nodes.

2. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method according to claim 1, wherein step (a) includes the precursor step of causing said first node to examine an associated dialing plan therefor to determine whether said first node is coupled to said called device.

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operating a multinode cooperative telecommunication network comprising a plurality of nodes coupled to one another by way of an internode communication

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path, each node comprises a private branch exchange (PBX) platform
and each having a separate dialing plan, wherein each node has a
copy of the dialing plan only for its node as a (PBX) platform and
no other nodes and being operative to service multiple
telecommunication devices coupled thereto through the respective
separate dialing plan for a node, each communication device having
an extension within a respective dialing plan for a node that is
used in the course of routing a call from a calling communication
device to a called communication device as a queried target
corresponding to a requested extension, said method comprising the
steps of:

(a)   in response to the placement of a call from a
communication device coupled to a first node, causing said first
node to examine an associated dialing plan therefor to determine
whether said first node is coupled to said called device;

(b)   at each node, examining the local accounts to determine
if the queried target as the requested extension is connected to
the respective node;

~~(b)~~   (c)   in response to said first node determining that
said first node is not coupled to said called device, transmitting
a query message from said first node to all other nodes of said
network, said query message being operative to inquire whether a
respective node receiving said query message is coupled to said
called device as a queried target;

~~(c)~~   (d)   at a second node to which said called device is
coupled, transmitting a reply message to said first node
indicating that said second node is coupled to said called device

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~~such that~~ and has the queried target corresponding to the
requested extension while other nodes ~~not having the called device~~
~~as a queried target coupled thereto~~ ignore the query message and
do not transmit a reply message ~~indicative that the respective~~
~~node not replying does not have the queried target for location or~~
~~routing~~ indicative the all other nodes do not have the queried
target as the requested extension for locating or routing; and

        ~~(d)~~ (e) in response to receipt of said reply message by
said first node, routing said call from said first node to said
second node, so that said second node may complete the connection
of said call to said called device without requiring a copy of
dialing plans for all other nodes.

        6.   (CANCELLED)

        7.   (CANCELLED)

        8.   (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of operating a multinode,
cooperative, restricted access telecommunication network
comprising a plurality of nodes coupled to one another by way of
an internode communication path, each node comprises a private
branch exchange (PBX) platform and each having a separate dialing
plan, wherein each node has a copy of the dialing plan only for
its node as a (PBX) platform and no other nodes and being
operative to service multiple telecommunication devices coupled
thereto through the respective separate dialing plan for a node,
each communication device having an extension within a respective

dialing plan for a node that is used in the course of routing a call from a calling communication device to a called communication device as a queried target corresponding to a requested extension, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) storing at each node the dialing plan that contains only communication device extensions that are coupled to said each node;

(b) in response to the placement of a call from a communication device coupled to a first node, causing said first node to examine an associated dialing plan only therefor, so as to determine whether said first node is coupled to said called device;

(c) in response to said first node determining that said first node is coupled to said called device, routing said call to said called device, but otherwise transmitting a query message from said first node to all other nodes of said network, said query message being operative to inquire whether a respective node receiving said query message is coupled to said called device as a queried target;

(d) at said all other nodes of said network examining respective call plans only therefor, so as to determine whether said called device is contained therein by examining at each node its local accounts to determine if the queried target is at the requested node;

(e) at only a second node which is that one of said all other nodes of said network to which said called device is coupled, transmitting a reply message to said first node

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indicating that said second node is coupled to said called device ~~such that~~ and has the queried target corresponding to the requested extension while all other nodes ~~not having the called device as a queried target coupled thereto~~ ignore the query message and do not transmit a reply message ~~indicative that the respective node not replying does not have the queried target for location or routing~~ indicative the all other nodes do not have the queried target as the requested extension for locating or routing; and

(f)   in response to receipt of said reply message by said first node, routing said call from said first node to said second node, so that said second node may complete the connection of said call to said called device without requiring a copy of dialing plans for all other nodes.

9.   (CANCELLED)

10.   (CANCELLED)